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Abstract: Objectives: To report outcomes of a cohort with displaced Femoral Neck Fractures (FNF) treated with a length/angle-stable construct augmented with an endosteal fibular allograft serving as a biologic dowel. Design: Prospective Setting: Level I Trauma Center Patients: The study group consists of twenty-seven patients with isolated FNF surgically treated by a single surgeon. Intervention: Open reduction of the femoral neck, fixed with a length- and angle stable-construct of two fully threaded cannulated screws augmented with an endosteal fibular allograft serving as a biologic dowel. Main Outcome Measurements: Clinical and radiographic outcomes of the fixation construct and the viability of both the femoral head and the fibular allograft, host response to the allograft and osseous union was evaluated using a specialized sequence of contrast-enhanced MRI obtained at 3 and 12 months postoperatively. Results: This construct resulted in high union rates (89%; 24/27). Two patients suffered early catastrophic failure and one patient developed fracture non-union, all of which underwent uneventful conversion to total hip arthroplasty. Three (11%) additional patients had removal of symptomatic implants. The clinical and radiographic outcomes were excellent. Twelve months MRIs revealed either partial or complete osseous incorporation of 86% the fibular allografts without signs of adverse reaction of the host to the allograft. Femoral head osteonecrosis segments were noted in 76% of patients on MRI, however radiographically there were no signs of osteonecrosis or segmental collapse. Conclusion: The fibular allograft reconstructs the comminuted femoral neck, and the osteointegration overtime increases the strength of the host-bone-graft interface. This added strength seems to provide the stability needed to better preserve the intra-operative reduction, obtain good outcomes and reduce the complications associated with FNF. Level of Evidence: Therapeutic Level IV. See Instructions for Authors for a complete description of levels of evidence.

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Endosteal Biologic Augmentation for Fixation of Displaced Femoral Neck Fractures

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Each author certifies that he has no commercial associations (e.g., consultancies, stock ownership, equity interest, patent/licensing arrangements, etc.) that might pose a conflict of interest with the submitted article. This manuscript is an original work that has never been published previously. It has been reviewed by all of the above authors. Institutional ethical board approval has been received for this research study.

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The authors report no conflicts of interest related to this work.

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Abstract

Objectives: To report outcomes of a cohort with displaced Femoral Neck Fractures (FNF) treated with a length/angle-stable construct augmented with an endosteal fibular allograft serving as a biologic dowel.

Design: Prospective

Setting: Level I Trauma Center

Patients: The study group consists of twenty-seven patients with isolated FNF surgically treated by a single surgeon.

Intervention: Open reduction of the femoral neck, fixed with a length- and angle stable-construct of two fully threaded cannulated screws augmented with an endosteal fibular allograft serving as a biologic dowel.

Main Outcome Measurements: Clinical and radiographic outcomes of the fixation construct and the viability of both the femoral head and the fibular allograft, host response to the allograft and osseous union was evaluated using a specialized sequence of contrast-enhanced MRI obtained at 3 and 12 months postoperatively.

Results: This construct resulted in high union rates (89%; $24/27$). Two patients suffered early catastrophic failure and one patient developed fracture non-union, all of which underwent uneventful conversion to total hip arthroplasty. Three (11%) additional patients had removal of symptomatic implants. The clinical and radiographic outcomes were excellent. Twelve months MRIs revealed either partial or complete osseous incorporation of 86% the fibular allografts without signs of adverse reaction of the host to the allograft. Femoral head osteonecrosis segments were noted in 76% of patients on MRI, however radiographically there were no signs of osteonecrosis or segmental collapse.

Conclusion: The fibular allograft reconstructs the comminuted femoral neck, and the osteointegration overtime increases the strength of the host-bone-graft interface. This added strength seems to provide the

stability needed to better preserve the intra-operative reduction, obtain good outcomes and reduce the complications associated with FNF.

Key Words: displaced femoral neck fracture; fibular allograft; osteonecrosis, length-stable fixation, osteointegration

Level of Evidence: Therapeutic Level IV. See Instructions for Authors for a complete description of levels of evidence.

Introduction

Successful treatment of displaced fractures of the femoral neck remains challenging(1-4). Surgical preservation of the native Femoral Head (FH) continues to be associated with high re-operation rates(20-64%)(4-10), often prompting surgeons to replace the FH instead(5, 11, 12). Major complications include fracture non-union(30%)(10), FH osteonecrosis(25-45%)(13) and late segmental collapse(25%)(14). These complications are considered secondary to biomechanical and biological limitations for fracture healing coupled with instability resulting from suboptimal reduction and/or poor biomechanical constructs(1, 4, 15, 16).

The proximal end of the femur mainly consists of a dense arrangement of cancellous bone covered by a thin cortex(17). In fractures, the thin cortical shell at the compression side is often comminuted(1, 18, 19) making perfect re-apposition difficult to achieve, particularly when attempting closed reduction(1, 4, 16, 20). Even if anatomic reduction is achieved, concern prevails on how to maintain reduction and resist forces acting on the femoral neck(1, 3, 4, 16, 17). Traditionally, in order to increase the chances for fracture healing, valgus malreduction is accepted and sliding constructs that permit dynamic compression at the fracture site during physiological loading are often employed. These constructs invariably lead to malunion and

femoral neck shortening, negatively affecting hip biomechanics, outcomes and quality of life(21-25).

The ideal construct provides angle- and length-stability, withstands the forces crossing the fractured femoral neck and allows controlled microdynamization. We employed an endosteal fibular allograft, serving as a biologic dowel, to reconstruct and augment the comminuted femoral neck and provide structural support to the fully threaded screws construct.

To our knowledge, all previous fixation constructs augmented with fibular graft were sliding constructs. We evaluate the radiographic and clinical outcomes of a cohort of patient with Femoral Neck Fracture (FNF) treated with a length- and angle-stable construct augmented with endosteal fibular allograft. Using a specialized sequence of contrast-enhanced MRI, we aimed to evaluate osseous incorporation and biologic changes that occur (i) at the interface of the fibular allograft-host bone and (ii) within the fibular allograft. It was our hypothesis that the fibular allograft, serving as a biologic dowel in a length- and angle-stable construct, undergoes osseous incorporation over time and permits better preservation of intra-operative reduction, reduces complications and improves outcomes.

Patients and Methods

This prospective study was approved by our Institutional Review Board. Patients with isolated, unilateral FNF surgically treated by a single surgeon were enrolled. Exclusion criteria consisted of: (i) age <18 years, (ii) non-isolated injury and (iii) a follow up duration < 12-months. The fractures were classified either as non-displaced or displaced. The Garden classification(1) does

not address sagittal plane deformity. If $\geq 20^\circ$ of posterior roll-off was found, using the method of Palm et al(26), the fracture was classified as displaced and fracture reduction was performed. Patients were indicated for ORIF of their FNF if they were highly functional (physiologically young and able to ambulate unlimited distance without assistive device) regardless of the age to the age of 85 years. Regardless of fracture pattern, patients with significant medical comorbidities, advanced physiologic age, degenerative changes of the FH, or pathological fractures were indicated for arthroplasty.

Surgical Technique

The surgical technique was recently described(15). This technique consists of open anatomic reduction, intraoperative compression and use of a true length- and angle-stable construct. A strategically placed endosteal fibular allograft, serving as a biologic dowel, is used to increase construct stability. The best approach to achieve anatomic reduction is through direct visualization. We preferred the Watson-Jones surgical approach(27) (Fig.1) over both the Smith-Petersen(28) and Hueter(29) surgical approaches because the latter two required two incisions, one for fracture reduction and another for implant placement; whereas the Watson-Jones approach requires a single incision.

Deformity correction in all planes is essential to achieving and maintaining the near anatomic reduction and compressing along the calcar. The construct begins with fracture compression and correction of deformity with the insertion of a 7.3mm partially threaded screw through the tension side of the fracture (inferior in valgus and superior in varus deformities) visible on the

anteroposterior (AP) view and centrally in the femoral neck and head as seen on a lateral view. Next, a partially threaded screw (7.3mm) is inserted in the center of the FH, as visualized on the AP view. A track is made for the allograft fibula using a 10-11mm cannulated drill, and the fibula itself is burred to a core diameter of 10-11mm, and tapped gently into place below the subchondral bone. The fibula is strategically placed at the compression side of the fracture augmenting the comminuted neck and helping control deformity forces in both coronal and sagittal planes; superior placement for valgus deformity, and inferior placement for varus deformity. The initial partially threaded 7.3mm screws are replaced with fully threaded screws. The construct is completed using a triangulated 3.5mm compression screw which is inserted through the greater trochanter. This screw passes through the fibula and to the calcar, transfixing the fibula, and creating a fixed angle non-sliding construct between the host bone and the allograft fibula (Fig.2-3).

Clinical follow up evaluation

Range of motion hip exercises is encouraged after surgery, with strengthening beginning at 6 weeks. Patients are kept toe-touch weight bearing (20% of patient body weight) for three months, and then advanced immediately to full-weight bearing at the 3 months. Patients return for follow-up at 2 and 6 weeks, then every 3 months up to a year, and finally at 2 years. Functional assessment included Medical Outcomes Study Short Form-36 (SF-36 v.2) and Harris Hip Score (HHS)(30). The HHS scores were graded, based on Marchetti et al(31) grading system, as excellent (90-100), good (80-90), fair (70-79), or poor (≤ 69). Gait analysis, at their latest follow-up, was performed using the Intelligent Device Energy Expenditure and Gait Analysis

(IDEEA)(MiniSun Inc., CA, USA) portable system. This device consists of a microprocessor with five sensors secured to the subject. Gait evaluation using the IDDEA has been validated previously(32). Gait parameters evaluated included: single limb stance (SLS), cadence, cycle duration, and stride length (SL). These parameters were compared to the contralateral uninjured side.

Radiographic Assessment

Postoperative radiographs were assessed for maintenance of reduction according to Boraiah et al(33). They introduced measurements for quantification of FH migration and neck shortening, while correcting for leg rotation and magnification error. We added femoral neck offset measurements and abductor lever arm length, described by McGrory et al(34). All measurements, performed by two investigators, were compared with the uninjured hip as a control. The senior author evaluated radiographs for osseous union at every follow-up visit. The fracture was considered healed when bridging was observed on 3/4 cortices and there was no groin pain with full weight bearing.

MRI Assessment

Multi-Acquisition Variable-Resonance Image Combination (MAVRIC) MRI sequence (General Electric Health Care, Waukesha, WI) was obtained at 3 and 12 months after surgery. MRI scanning parameters are summarized in a table (see, Supplemental Digital Content 1, <http://links.lww.com/BOT/A531>). The MAVRIC sequence minimizes metal-induced artifact and thus improves image quality around metallic implants (35-37). An experienced musculoskeletal MRI radiologist (HGP) evaluated osseous incorporation and relative perfusion of the fibula allograft over time as well as osseous union at the fracture site. Multiple tomographic MR images were assessed on the

MAVRIC moderate echo time sequences, permitting assessment of graft incorporation immediately adjacent to the stainless steel screws. Qualitative assessment of the fibular allograft osseous-incorporation was performed using a subjective scoring system (0=none, 1=partial and 2=complete) (Fig-4). For grade 0 (no incorporation), the cortex of the allograft is well defined without any irregularities, with incorporation the outer line of the cortex gets more irregular and hyperintense, first only focally (grade 1- partial incorporation) and finally along the whole bone graft (what we defined as complete or grade 2).

Semi-quantitative assessment of the relative perfusion of the fibular allograft was performed using pre- and post-contrast enhanced images. Pre- and post-contrast Signal Intensity(SI) enhancement was measured using a standardized region of interest (ROI) within the bone marrow of the fibular allograft. The measured SI enhancements were normalized to cortical bone to correct for minor variations in center frequency and transmit/receive gain between the pre- and post-contrast acquisitions, and a percentage SI enhancement was calculated.

Statistical analysis

All statistical analysis was performed using the PRISM software (Version 6, Graphpad software, La Jolla, CA). For intergroup comparisons, a paired two-tailed student's t-test was used, reporting mean and standard deviation. Box and whisker plots display the minimum and maximum value. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistics for continuous variables were calculated in terms of means and standard deviations and for categorical variables frequencies and percentages were used.

Results

Patients

Thirty-seven patients with FNF presented at our institution between October-2009 to July-2013, five were indicated for primary THR and five (non-displaced fractures) underwent closed reduction and percutaneous pinning. The other twenty-seven patients (8 males and 19 females) met inclusion criteria. At time of surgery average patient age was 59.9 years (range of 29-84), with 9 patients ≥ 65 years and 4 patients ≤ 50 years. Pre-injury, all patients were physiologically young, highly functional and able to ambulate unlimited distance without need of assistive devices. Average follow-up was 17.4 ± 6.6 months (one patient came for evaluation 1 month prior to her one year follow-up visit). Nineteen (70%; $^{19}/_{27}$) patients suffered a low energy mechanism of injury. All fractures were classified as displaced/unstable fractures (AO/OTA: 31-B3). Twenty-five were Garden III/IV and two were Garden I but with $>20^\circ$ of posterior roll-off. There were two (displaced fractures-Garden III/IV) early catastrophic failures (7%; $^2/_{27}$). One patient (52 year-old female, Garden IV) was non-complaint with weight bearing restrictions three weeks after fixation and the other (64 year-old female, Garden IV) suffered a fall 4 weeks after fixation. Both patients fractured the fibular allograft, and progressively developed severe varus collapse and joint penetration of the allograft. Both underwent uncomplicated Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA). Twenty five patients maintained fixation past the 3-months period of limited weight bearing status. One of those patients (4%; $^1/_{25}$) developed fracture non-union, 8 months after initial fixation and underwent an uneventful THA. The remaining twenty four (89%; $^{24}/_{27}$) patients achieved osseous union at an average of 16 ± 4.9 weeks.

180

181

182 *Clinical follow up evaluation*

183 Twenty-two patients completed the functional outcome questionnaires. Average HHS scores
184 revealed excellent outcomes (91 ± 13.2). The average Mental and Physical SF-36 sub-scores were
185 52.9 ± 11.8 and 50.5 ± 8.3 , respectively. Both sub-scores are above average values for normal
186 age-matched control adults. All patients demonstrated normal gait without need for assistive
187 devices at latest follow-up. Gait analysis data was obtained for 20 patients at latest follow-up.
188 Patients on average recovered 98% of single-limb stance time, 100% of cadence, 96% of cycle
189 duration, and 98% in stride length compared with uninjured side.

190

191 *Radiographic Assessment*

192 Near anatomic reduction ($<5^\circ$ difference in neck-shaft angle compared to contralateral side and
193 <2 mm step-off) was achieved in all. The average displacement of the center of the FH compare
194 favorable to historical control using a length-stable construct(33)(0.62 ± 2.81 mm inferiorly, 0.92
195 ± 2.75 mm medially, and 0.7° of increased varus versus historical data of 0.86 mm, 1.23 mm and
196 0.6°). Average femoral neck collapse was less than that of historical controls (0.55 ± 2.7 mm
197 versus 1.98 mm). The average difference in femoral neck offset and abductor lever arm length
198 was 3.05 ± 5.08 mm and 1.29 ± 6.27 mm, respectively. In three patients, a side plate was used to
199 buttress and secure the fibular allograft. All three patients underwent removal of symptomatic

implants; the remaining twenty-two patients did not have a buttressing side plate, and did not demonstrate symptoms related to the implant. No patient demonstrated signs of osteonecrosis on the most recent radiographs (average 19 months; range 12-30 months).

Qualitative 3-month MRI assessment revealed partial osseous-incorporation of the fibular graft in 57% ($^{12}/_{21}$) of patients. At 12-months 86% revealed either partial (29%; $^6/_{21}$) or complete (57%; $^{12}/_{21}$) osseous-incorporation. Osseous union at the fracture site, based on 3-month MRI, was noted to be partial in 38% ($^8/_{21}$) of patients and complete in the remaining 62% ($^{13}/_{21}$) of patients. The 12-month MRI for all patients demonstrated complete osseous union. Quantitative assessment revealed a significant increase in percentage SI enhancement within the fibular allograft when compared to the ilium and femoral diaphysis at the 12-month MRI (Fig-5). Osteonecrosis (average size of $5.84 \pm 5.4\text{cm}^3$) and associated sub-chondral collapse (average of $0.6 \pm 1.06\text{mm}$) was noted in 76% ($^{16}/_{21}$) and 38% ($^8/_{21}$) of patients at the 12 month MRI, respectively. No MRI signs of adverse reaction of the host (synovitis, peri-allograft edema or osteolysis) to the allograft were observed in any patient.

Discussion

Displaced FNF continues to pose challenges for surgical reduction and fixation due to their inherent instability, difficulty in consistently achieving a stable construct, and maintaining reduction. Traditional fixations (sliding constructs) accept malreduction and jeopardize hip biomechanics in order to maximize the potential for fracture healing. Adherence to this fixation continues to be associated with unacceptable complications and high reoperation rates. We

increase the stability of the fixation construct through augmentation with a fibular allograft acting as a biologic dowel. Our data demonstrates high union rates, minimal femoral neck shortening, low re-operation rate and excellent outcomes. Based on our MRI findings, the fibular allograft undergoes biologic changes indicative of osseous-incorporation and revascularization over time. These changes may translate into a construct that increases in strength/stability at the host bone-allograft interface over time.

Our study has limitations. The study group is small, limiting the power of the study to identify predictors of outcomes. However, we believe the primary purpose of the study, to evaluate the clinical and radiographic outcomes of this construct was still achieved. We recognize a longer follow-up is needed to fully assess FH viability. However, at the latest follow-up, no radiographic evidence of segmental collapse was noted in any patient. This clinical series did not have a control group, however, given the reported sub-optimal outcomes with the application of the commonly used sliding constructs; the authors did not offer that treatment method. Additionally, we rely on indirect measures, using advanced imaging, to evaluate biologic changes of the allograft over time indicative of viability. Additional studies with more direct measures (histological) are needed to further validate our findings, but these are not feasible in clinical practice outside an animal model. However, the MAVRIC MRI provides an excellent non-invasive method of visualizing and evaluating the allograft and host reaction over time.

In 1961, Garden(1) proclaimed the solution for this difficult problem relies on both anatomical reduction and increased stability of fixation. To improve stability and increase chances of fracture healing, surgeons often rely on valgus malreduction which negatively affects the fate of the FH(14, 38). Rotatory malposition and valgus malalignment interrupt perfusion from the foveolar arterial system affecting the already tenuous blood supply(39, 40). Late segmental collapse only occurs with severe malreduction following osseous union, suggesting that a remodeling process secondary to hip joint incongruity may be an important part of the etiology(14). In 1971, Garden(14) challenged the conventional wisdom that impaired vascularity of the FH is the main cause for failure following fixation of FNF. He stated that the quality of reduction and stability of the construct are the most important factors affecting the outcomes.

The femoral neck periosteum lacks the cambium layer and the ability to form periosteal callus (41-43), limiting fracture healing to direct/primary bone healing and thus requiring stable fixation. Traditional constructs allow sliding and dynamic compression at the fracture site, creating motion and increased strain, negatively affecting primary/direct bone healing and revascularization. This type of fixation leads to unacceptably high rates of non-union (30%)(10), varus collapse ($>5^{\circ}$; 39%)(24, 44) and re-operation (35%)(45). Several randomized studies have compared different configurations of sliding-constructs, and did not find any construct to be superior(5, 46-51). Additionally, these sliding constructs consistently lead to malunion with shortening of the femoral neck ($>5\text{mm}$)(30%-66%)(23, 24, 52). Shortening of the neck decreases the abductor moment arm and FH-neck offset, diminishing adductor muscle strength and restricting range of motion due to trochanteric impingement(34). A recent study reported that

malunion of FNF resulted in a 75% prevalence of radiographic Cam-type impingement(25). In our study, patients essentially maintained the initial intra-operative reduction, femoral neck length and offset, and abductor lever arm, corresponding to excellent functional and radiographic outcomes.

During the 1940's, both King(53) and Patrick(54), augmented the Smith-Petersen nail treatment with an endosteal fibular autograft and reported decreased rates of both fracture non-union and FH osteonecrosis. Nagi et al(55, 56) had similar reports when augmenting 3 partially threaded screws with a fibular autograft in the treatment of both acute and delayed FNFs. With increased attention on preservation of the functional anatomy of the hip joint, a non-sliding construct using fully threaded screws was employed in 54 FNF, resulting in high union rates with minimal femoral neck shortening(33). A posterolateral proximal femoral locking plate using multiple, nonparallel converging/diverging screws was employed in 18 FNF in order to minimize shortening of the femoral neck (57). Unfortunately, this construct resulted in poor outcomes and high rates of catastrophic failure (37%). These failures have been attributed to the increased stiffness which may prevent fracture micromotion and dynamization, placing a mechanical stress on the implants. Recognizing from these failures, a small amount of motion and dynamization is necessary to avoid catastrophic implant failure seen in the rigid fixed angle plate design. To increase the strength/stability we augmented the fully threaded screw construct with an endosteal fibular allograft. The allograft is placed on the comminuted compression side of the fracture in order to rebuild the femoral neck and provide increased stability at the fracture site. The strength of the bone-screw interface weakens over time(54, 55, 58); however, the allograft undergoes osseous-incorporation(58) increasing the strength of the host bone-allograft interface and the

overall stability. This construct seems to allow an extremely controlled dynamization at the fracture site in the acute phase where the graft edges are smooth, with time the graft incorporates to the adjacent bone increasing the strength of the graft-bone interface and stability of the construct.

There are concerns with use of allograft with regards to infection risk, cost and effect on salvage operations. The reported bacterial infection risk is 12%(21, 22) for massive allografts and 0.7%(21, 23) for non-massive allografts. Additionally, our MRI data did not demonstrate signs of adverse host reaction. With regard to the cost, the listed price of a 7.3mm screw is approximately \$350, in the construct is replaced with a 10cm fibular allograft at a cost of \$700. Traditional constructs may be less expensive in the short run but if a re-operation is needed the health care costs become significantly higher. Lastly, we do not anticipate any issue in the event that conversion to a THA, as the fibula dowel's track is 11mm, centrally smaller than the bone hole created by a DHS barrel in the lateral cortex. In our series, we had 3 patients successfully converted to THA without complication.

Conclusion

With increased attention on preservation of hip function and patient expectations, it is imperative to restore hip anatomy. Fracture reduction and fixation stability seems to be most important in avoiding complications and reoperation following fixation of FNF. We addressed the issues of instability by employing a fibular allograft, serving a biologic dowel, to increase strength of the host-bone interface over time, provide length- and angle-stability, and control deforming forces.

306 The increased fixation stability seems to enhance osseous union and revascularization of the FH
307 preventing the most feared complications. The use of allograft is an attractive alternative that
308 obviates the need of adding additional iatrogenic insult when harvesting the graft, while
309 providing the benefits of a structural biologic graft. This type of biologic implant may improve
310 surgical fixation of FNF. This construct should be used in a select group of patients that can
311 follow a strict postoperative protocol with limited weight bearing status to prevent early fixation
312 failure.

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Figures Legends

Fig. 1

Drawing illustrating the Watson-Jones surgical approach. The interval between the gluteus medius and faciatata muscles is developed, exposing the anterior capsule via a sharp Z-shaped incision along the anterolateral axis of the femoral neck. The capsulotomy remains anterior to the lesser trochanter at all times to avoid damage to the femoral head blood supply.

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Fig. 2

(a)AP and lateral radiograph of a displaced femoral neck fracture. (b) Intraoperative fluoroscopic images demonstrating correction of coronal plane deformity (valgus). Terminally threaded guide wires are used as a joystick to control fragments and achieve anatomical reduction. The bull stick pusher is used to control deforming forces in the sagittal plane. (c)Fluoroscopic view demonstrating the cannulated drill used to form the track for the fibula allograft. A burr is used to contour the biologic implant to a core diameter of 10-11mm. The implant is tapped gently into the subchondral bone. The partially threaded screws are then replaced with fully threaded screws. (d)To transfix the biologic implant in place, a 3.5 compression screw is inserted through the greater trochanter, passing through the fibula to the calcar. AP (left) and Lateral (Right) views demonstrating the final length- and angle-stable construct using allograft fibula as a biologic implant.

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Fig. 3

a)Anteroposterior (AP) and lateral radiographic views of a 54 year-old male who suffered a displaced femoral neck fracture with varus displacement and significant posterior roll-off. (b) AP and lateral

radiographic views at 3 months follow-up demonstrating an angle- and length-stable fixation construct with use of a strategically placed fibula allograft (at the compression side of the fracture). (c) AP and lateral radiographic views at 12 months follow-up demonstrating maintenance of anatomic reduction, femoral neck length and hip joint space without radiographic signs of femoral head osteonecrosis and segmental collapse.

Fig. 4

Depict the osseous incorporation scoring system based on MRI (0=none, 1=partial and 2=complete).

Fig. 5

Depict a representative patient pre- and post-contrast enhanced MAVRIC images. A standard region of interest (ROI) within the bone marrow of the allograft was used to measure signal intensity enhancement. Box and whisker plots display the significant increase in signal intensity enhancement within the fibular allograft when compared to the ilium and femoral diaphysis at 12 months post-operatively. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.



















